

'This was my fourth year at VacStuds and I feel that once more I grew a lot. I've gained maturity, responsibility, and self-confidence. I'm sure that all of these characteristics will be very important and valuable for my future life. I'm also sure that these four years have made me a better person. I don't know if they made me a different person or if they simply allowed me and made me want to be a better one.

I've been thinking about a word that could define VacStuds, what it meant to me, but it was really hard to find just one. I couldn't find one, but I got to an expression. For me, VacStuds is "life changing". I think that we are never the same after VacStuds, there's always something, even if it's a small thing, that changes you. Of course, you need to be open to that change but if you are, it is overwhelming.

I'm quite young to be absolutely sure about things but there is something that I don't have any doubt about: the person I want to be in my life in general it's the person I'm at VacStuds.' (An Apprentice)

'Since F is back from Mary Hare, he asked me daily to apply for his stay with you in 2024. Obviously, he enjoyed his summer stay to its full extent with you, made a lot of new friends, improved his skills, became more self-confident. In summary would be more than happy if he was allowed to come again and take another step to the next level of his development as a person.

So if he finds your acceptance, please consider this mail as his application for 2024.

Thank you for providing this programme again in 2024 in its 51st year along with all the opportunities for students to develop as a person.

I appreciate all you do to achieve these goals, especially your programme's framework, organizational structure and processes as well as behavioural rules defined.' (A parent)

'I came to VacStuds filled with anxiety and worry, unable to seize many opportunities. Now, I firmly believe that I will be able to grasp any opportunity presented my way, despite feelings of anxiety, and I cannot thank you enough for that. I will truly treasure the memories and friends that I have made at VacStuds for the rest of my life. Despite the highs and lows this summer, the lessons that you have taught me directly and the lessons that the camp has taught me indirectly I will also certainly take with me for the rest of my life.' (A student)

'There is nothing I would want more than to work at VacStuds for another year. I would love to use this year to improve and prepare as much as possible in order to make next year the best it possibly can be.

Vacational Studies has been an outlet for me to be completely myself when life back home has not treated me as well. The friends, experiences, and connections I have made over the years here are unlike any other and are held very close to my heart. What you have created over the last 50 years is more than just a summer school, it is a family, and I thank you endlessly for all your work.' (A former student)

'I feel very amazed for X's self-management. I think it must be come from the experience from the summer school. Thanks so much for the encouragement and care from you and all the staff.' (A parent)

'Thanks a lot for the wonderful time the girls spent with you and your team. They are so happy and they are still in contact with all their new friends. They had a gorgeous time. Also, they loved to be without the phone. Their biggest wish is to come back next year and we try to make it possible for them.' (A parent)

'Please allow me, first of all, to thank you dearly for the wonderful experience that X was able to have at VacStuds. One of the very first things that he told me while heading home from the airport was that he definitely wanted to go back next summer, which is proof enough that we had made the right decision by signing him up this year. I must admit that, knowing him, I was unsure about what to expect. However, the mixture of fun, learning, and bonding has been enriching and rewarding for him, and for that we thank you greatly.' (A parent)

'I also wanted to thank you again for taking care of everything that was on my mind right

away, so that I could calm down quickly.' (A parent)

'A very happy and tired X that we picked up Saturday. She certainly had the time of her life, with new friendship from all over the world. (Just as me in '92). Already talking about next year.'